

**Poverty is a cause and a product of human rights violations**

**It is probably the gravest human rights challenge in the world. Yet, poverty is still rarely seen through the lens of human rights. Many ingredients go into making poverty, but factors like discrimination, unequal access to resources, and social and cultural stigmatization have always characterized it. These “factors” have another name: the denial of human rights and human dignity.**



**HUMAN RIGHTS DAY**

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# HUMAN RIGHTS DAY, DECEMBER 10, 2006

<http://www.ohchr.org/english/events/day2006/hrd2006.htm>

## ABOUT HUMAN RIGHTS DAY

Human Rights Day is observed by the international community every year on 10 December. It commemorates the day in 1948 the United Nations General Assembly adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Its formal inception dates from 1950, after the Assembly passed resolution 423 (V) inviting all States and interested organizations to adopt 10 December of each year as Human Rights Day.

The High Commissioner for Human Rights, as the main UN rights official, and her Office play a major role in coordinating efforts for the yearly observation of Human Rights Day.



## HUMAN RIGHTS AND POVERTY

Fighting Poverty: a matter of obligation, not charity

Poverty is a cause and a product of human rights violations. It is this double edge that makes poverty probably the gravest human rights challenge in the world. The links between human rights and poverty should be obvious: People whose rights are denied - victims of discrimination or persecution, for example -- are more likely to be poor. Generally they find it harder or impossible to participate in the labor market and have little or no access to basic services and resources. Meanwhile, the poor in many societies cannot enjoy their rights to education, health and housing simply because they cannot afford them. And poverty affects all human rights: for example, low income can prevent people from accessing education -- an “economic and social” right -- which in turn inhibits their participation in public life -- a “civil and political” right -- and their ability to influence policies affecting them.

Yet, poverty is still rarely seen through the lens of human rights. Rather it is often perceived as tragic but inevitable, and even as the responsibility of those who suffer it. At best those living in poverty -- countries and individuals -- are portrayed as unfortunate, at worst as lazy and undeserving.

The reality is different. Many ingredients go into making poverty, but factors like discrimination, unequal access to resources, and social and cultural stigmatization have always characterized it. These “factors” have another name: the denial of human rights and human dignity. What’s more, these are factors governments and those in a position of authority can, indeed are obliged to, do something about. They have committed to it by overwhelmingly accepting a number of human rights treaties and by signing on to the international consensus to make poverty history, through the Millennium Declaration and

the Millennium Development Goals, as well as most recently the 2005 World Summit Outcome. The realization of human rights – including the fight against poverty -- is a duty, not a mere aspiration. \*-.\*

## State Department Supporting Human Rights and Democracy: The U.S. Record 2005 – 2006

Released by the Bureau of Democracy,  
Human Rights and Labor Indonesia  
<http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/shrd/2005/63945.htm>

Indonesia, the world's third-largest democracy and home to the world's largest Muslim population, took further steps to consolidate a pluralistic and representative democracy after four decades of repressive and authoritarian rule. In 2005, Indonesian voters elected seven governors, 116 regents, and 28 mayors in relatively free, fair, and peaceful direct local elections. The most significant human rights development was the end of the three-decade long civil conflict in Aceh that claimed an estimated 15,000 lives. The Government and the Free Aceh Movement (GAM) signed a peace agreement on August 15, which both sides are implementing, thereby ending the once daily violent clashes between security forces and separatist rebels, and greatly reducing human rights abuses in Aceh. In Papua and West Irian Jaya provinces, the Government inaugurated the Papuan People's Assembly and took other steps toward fulfilling the 2001 Special Autonomy Law

on Papua. Indonesia improved its human rights performance during the year, but significant problems remained and serious violations continued. Many of these violations were committed by security forces in areas of separatist conflict. Soldiers and police officers committed violations, including extrajudicial killings and torture, notably in Aceh before the peace agreement and in Papua. A weak and corrupt judicial system frequently failed to hold violators accountable. The military and the police took greater steps to punish human rights abusers within their ranks but, as with the civilian justice system, the punishment in many cases did not match the offense. Press freedom came under strain with orchestrated assaults on journalists and one disappearance. The Government often failed to uphold adequately the fundamental rights of children, women, peaceful protestors, persons with disabilities, religious minorities, and indigenous groups.



The United States undertook aggressive and varied efforts to promote human rights and democracy in Indonesia. The Ambassador and other U.S. officials publicly highlighted the need for protection of human rights and worked to put to counter problems such as trafficking in persons (TIP), religious intolerance, and threats to press freedom. Because many human rights violations involved the military and police, known collectively as the security forces, the United States focused human rights efforts on pushing for military reform and accountability, professionalizing the police, and developing civil society institutions essential for sustaining the democratic transition. U.S. officials frequently worked with student groups, NGOs, labor activists, representatives of religious and ethnic minorities, and leaders of indigenous groups. The United States supported the People's Crisis Center in Aceh to rescue children victimized by the conflict, particularly those with physical or mental trauma. American funding provided for a "safe house" where children could receive counseling and education. Since 2002, the United States has been funding a Survivors of Torture program, implemented by the International Catholic Migration Commission (ICMC), which strengthens the capacity of Indonesian NGOs to facilitate programs in awareness raising; medical, legal, and psychosocial rehabilitation services; and advocacy support for victims of torture and other abusive treatment.

Senior U.S. officials conveyed to the Government concern over the number of peaceful protesters jailed for "insulting the President" or "spreading hatred against the Government." The United States encouraged the growth and expansion of independent news radio throughout the Southeast Asia region by supporting an independent, indigenous, pro-democracy radio news program

based in Jakarta. Ten Indonesian print and electronic media journalists visited the United States to report on civil society and volunteerism in America. During the two-week tour, the participating Indonesian journalists visited a number of mosques and reported on religious pluralism and tolerance in America for all major news outlets in Indonesia. The United States is also strongly supporting a more vigorous free and independent media and Indonesian efforts to pass a Freedom of Information Act. The United States is assisting Indonesian civil society groups in their review of the draft Criminal Code to ensure protection of individual rights and media freedom.

To strengthen respect for rule of law, the United States provided professional training programs to prosecutors, police, and judges on issues including ethics, corruption, and money laundering. United States technical assistance to the Supreme Court to streamline the flow of alternative dispute resolution cases continued, as well as comparative organizational structures for a potential revision of the Supreme Court system. The United States also provided expertise to the Constitutional Court on draft procedures for handling impeachment cases and feasibility studies on human resources, case management, and tracking requirements. The United States provided training for prosecutors in the Attorney General's Office and the Anti-Corruption Commission and helped an NGO monitor court sessions and judicial selection procedures.

The United States closely followed trials involving crimes against humanity and spoke out when actions, or inaction, by prosecutors called into question the overall fairness of the judicial process, as happened at the East Timor Tribunal. The United States stressed the importance of achieving credible

accountability for the crimes against humanity committed in East Timor during and after the 1999 referendum. A U.S. official traveled to Makassar, Sulawesi to witness the country's first permanent Human Rights Court hand down its initial verdict. The United States also closely followed the investigation and trial of Polycarpus Budihari Priyanto, convicted of poisoning prominent human rights campaigner Munir Said Thalib, and publicly supported the Indonesian court's call for a continued investigation. The United States continued to help the Indonesian national police transform into a civilian law enforcement agency based on the principles of democracy and human rights through four project initiatives: an institutional transformation project, an anti-corruption project, an in-service video CD project, and a human rights training program for senior management with police in Aceh. Through these projects, the United States helped police develop transparency, accountability, and a better understanding of human rights. In Aceh, 12 senior Aceh police command staff attended the human rights seminar for senior management training. The United States encouraged the Expanded International Military Education and Training program. U.S. officials also frequently met Indonesian military officials and encouraged military reform and promoted respect for human rights.

Throughout the conflict in Aceh, the United States supported civil society organizations that assisted human rights victims, advocated peaceful resolution, and helped fund treatment of torture victims. To support implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), between the Government and the GAM to end the conflict in Aceh, the United States funded public awareness efforts and technical assistance. Activities included public forums and

dialogues, peace concerts, and a new "Aceh Magazine," the first ever Aceh-based news magazine to focus on peace development for community leaders. The United States provided two post-conflict advisors who inspired the "Joint Forum to Support Peace in Aceh," which has become a cornerstone of the Provincial Government's reintegration planning and implementation. The Embassy helped design and support the "Building Lasting Peace in Aceh Workshop," which brought together for the first time all stakeholders – civilian, GAM, local and central Government, and security forces – to discuss implementation of the MOU and peace in Aceh. This set a very high and important benchmark for public participation in implementation of the MOU.

In Papua, where the military has a history of repressive responses to separatist activity, the United States took steps to improve monitoring and investigation of human rights abuses. The United States continued to demand justice for the August 2002 killings of two U.S. citizens near the city of Timika.

U.S. officials traveled to Maluku and North Maluku Province to meet with leaders and encourage continued efforts at reconciliation and effective sectarian conflict resolution. In 2005, Central Sulawesi continued to suffer sporadic outbreaks of violence, including explosions at two local markets and the brutal murder by beheading of four Christian and one Muslim teenage girl. All three provinces continued to need extensive reconciliation and reconstruction work. U.S. assistance supported inter-group dialogues in Central Sulawesi through the crisis center Gereja Kristen Sulawesi Tengah (Christian church) and Himpunan Al Khairat (Islamic mass-based organization). Further U.S. support went to election commissions and several

local NGOs conducting local election monitoring. U.S. funding supported "Search for Common Ground," Indonesia's peace-building program using comic books aimed at young people in conflict-affected areas of Central Sulawesi.

The United States helped raise awareness of domestic violence through the Foundation for the Elimination of Violence Against Women, supported a media campaign to inform women of their rights, sought to empower women through pesantren (Islamic boarding school) programs, and supported the creation of a national database of potential women candidates for political parties. Dozens of women took part in the International Visitors Leadership Program (IVLP), the Voluntary Visitor Program, the Fulbright Summer Institute, and other programs, many of which focused on human rights issues. Female participants on the IVLP included Dewi Hughes, Indonesia's national spokesperson for anti-trafficking. The Embassy raised awareness about violence against women and trafficking by hosting a viewing and discussion of the film "Lilya Forever" for university law students and government officials. U.S. support of the National Commission on Violence Against Women resulted in the Government's decision to establish regional women's crisis centers. The U.S.-funded Women's Journal Foundation produced a monthly magazine and weekly radio show that reached 158 stations.

U.S. officials regularly met religious and civil leaders to urge mutual respect and cooperation, while simultaneously calling for justice for those in the past who had perpetrated severe human rights abuses. In outreach efforts to the Muslim community, the United States brought speakers to dozens of pesantrens, madrasahs (day schools),

and Muslim institutions of higher learning to exchange views on pluralism, tolerance, and respect for human rights. The Embassy sent 32 pesantren leaders to the United States for a three-week program on religious pluralism, civic education, and educational development. In addition, the Embassy sent 26 students and five teachers to the United States for four weeks on a Muslim Youth Leadership Program, and through the Youth Exchange and Study program over 89 Muslim students entered one-year programs at high schools throughout the United States. At the university level, a multi-year grant helped implement a civic education program in the private Islamic tertiary institutions affiliated with State Islamic Universities and the Muhammadiyah university system. U.S. grants strengthened curriculum and teaching materials, trained 400 high school teachers from 100 madrasahs, and helped an Islamic studies institute in Yogyakarta conduct training on human rights and establish courses promoting tolerance. The United States also provided grants to two U.S. universities to coordinate with Indonesian universities for a journalism training exchange, conflict resolution programs, and other exchanges and to assist five mediation centers at Muslim institutions.

The United States supported the Islam and Civil Society (ICS) program, which promoted messages on tolerance, pluralism, gender, and democracy to the people through religious leaders. In support of long-term engagement, five American Corners operated in Muslim institutions of higher learning across Indonesia. U.S. officials worked closely with the Ministry of Religious Affairs. The United States also funded The Asia Foundation to establish an international center to promote regional and international linkages among progressive Muslim intellectuals and activists and an international level of

discourse on progressive interpretations of Islam. The United States provided funding to various Muslim organizations and pesantren to promote gender equality and women's rights by strengthening the understanding of these values among female community leaders and supporting democratization and gender awareness.

The United States worked with international NGOs, such as Save the Children, the American Center for International Labor Solidarity, and the ICMC, along with the ILO and IOM, to raise awareness of and combat the problems of child labor and TIP. The United States devoted significant funding to protect children from sexual exploitation, TIP, and employment in exploitative and dangerous jobs.

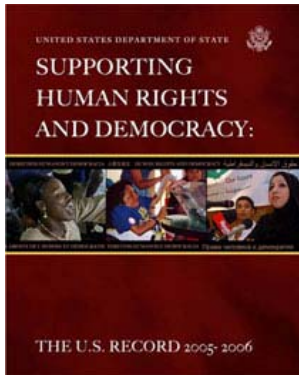
Sub-grants to 48 NGOs and community groups resulted in local anti-trafficking

actions focused on prevention, rehabilitation, and advocacy. U.S. funding supported the creation of new shelters for victims and two new hospital treatment centers and funded the safe return and reintegration of victims. The United States continued training of police officers and prosecutors, resulting in more arrests and prosecutions and longer jail sentences for traffickers. U.S. grantees continued technical assistance for the drafting of stronger and more comprehensive anti-trafficking legislation at the national and local levels. U.S.-funded NGOs quickly investigated rumors of trafficking of victims from Aceh after the December 2004 tsunami and, with supplemental U.S. funding, worked with Indonesian authorities and community groups, including Muslim communities, to respond to the increased risk of trafficking from Aceh.



# REPORTS

## Supporting Human Rights and Democracy Released April 5, 2006



The "Supporting Human Rights and Democracy: The U.S. Record 2005 - 2006" report is submitted to the Congress by the Department of State in compliance with Section 665 of P.L. 107-228, the FY 03 Foreign Relations Authorization Act, which requires the Department to report on actions taken by the U.S. Government to encourage respect for human rights. This fourth annual submission complements the longstanding Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2005, and takes the next step, moving from highlighting abuses to publicizing the actions and programs the United States has employed to end those abuses.

"Supporting Human Rights and Democracy: The U.S. Record 2005 - 2006" is available in both a PDF version and a HTML version (below).

<http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/shrd/2005/>

&

<http://www.state.gov/documents/organization/64057.pdf>

## Human Rights Watch World Report 2006

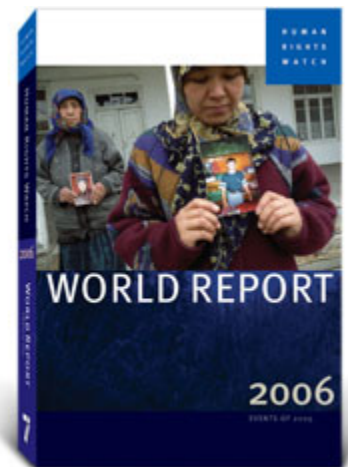
<http://www.hrw.org/wr2k6/>

The Human Rights Watch World Report 2006 contains information on human rights developments in more than 60 countries in 2005. Mouse over the map or view the regional listings below for country information.

Available free, please download at:

<http://www.hrw.org/wr2k6/wr2006.pdf>

Download PDF (2.5 Mbytes)



## Introduction to Human Rights

<http://usinfo.state.gov/products/pubs/hrintro/hrintro.htm>

In the last decade the demand for human rights has become a revolutionary force in the world. In this essay, scholar Jack Donnelly traces the development of human rights from their origins as a political theory in 17th-century Europe to their present-day acceptance as an international standard.

## Links to Human Rights Resources

### Human Rights Watch

<http://www.hrw.org/about/>

Human Rights Watch is an independent, nongovernmental organization, supported by contributions from private individuals and foundations worldwide. It accepts no government funds, directly or indirectly.

### University of Minnesota Human Rights Library

<http://www1.umn.edu/humanrts/>



UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA  
Human Rights Library

The University of Minnesota Human Rights Library houses one of the largest collections of more than twenty-five thousand core human rights documents, including several hundred

human rights treaties and other primary international human rights instruments. The site also provides access to more than four thousands links and a unique search device for multiple human rights sites. This comprehensive research tool is accessed by more than a 175,000 students, scholars, educators, and human rights advocates monthly from over 135 countries around the world. Documents are available in six languages - Arabic, English, French, Japanese, Russian, and Spanish.

### Human Rights Research and Education Center, University of Ottawa, Ontario

[http://www.cdp-hrc.uottawa.ca/links/sitesint\\_e.html](http://www.cdp-hrc.uottawa.ca/links/sitesint_e.html)



- Professional research and reference services for the academic community
- Comprehensive and specialized domestic and international human rights documentation collections

### Amnesty International



<http://www.amnesty.org/>

Amnesty International (AI) is a worldwide movement of people who campaign for internationally recognized human rights. AI's vision is of a world in which every person

enjoys all of the human rights enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other international human rights standards.

### **US Human Rights Network**

<http://www.ushrnetwork.org/page239.cfm>

The US Human Rights Network (USHRN) is a national network composed of over 200 grassroots human rights organizations and over 700 individual activists working to strengthen the protection of human rights in the United States.

